

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911

ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008

TARGETS FOR ABOLISHING MANUAL SCAVENGING

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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has failed in achieving the target of abolishing scavenging by 2007;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with State-wise details of people present working as scavengers;
- (c) the details of problems being faced to achieve the above target; and
- (d) the time by which the Government would abolish scavenging along with details of effort being made to achieve the said target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SLBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) to (d) As per the National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007 (NAP) formulated by the Planning Commission, the three-pronged strategy for eradication of manual scavenging includes

- (i) Enforcement of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;
- (ii) Implementation of the integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS); and
- (iii) Implementation of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS).

During the implementation of ILCS and NSLRS Schemes, inadequacies of these schemes in achieving the targets were observed. Accordingly, a new Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) was introduced in January, 2007. The ILCS Scheme has also been revised in February, 2008.

Remaining manual scavengers and their dependents are identified for their rehabilitation under SRMS. As per available information there are about 1.23 lakh manual scavengers and their dependents in the country, to be assisted for rehabilitation. State-wise break-up is given in the statement enclosed.